

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): A method to recover one or more individual desired living cells separate from any undesired cells in a sample of tissue, which method comprises ~~mechanically microsurgically~~, using expression of a first fluorescent protein in the desired cells as a guide, separating from the sample of tissue one or more desired living cells from undesired cells in the surrounding tissue,

thereby recovering one or more desired living cells separate from any undesired cells.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the cells that produce the first fluorescent protein are tumor cells.

3-4. (canceled)

5. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the tumor cells are metastatic tumor cells of the lung, bone, lymph node or liver.

6. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the first fluorescent protein is a green fluorescent protein or a red fluorescent protein.

7. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more living desired cells recovered consists of a single living cell.

8. (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein said cells that produce said first fluorescent protein are present in an immunocompromised laboratory animal.

9. (previously presented): The method of claim 8, which further comprises transferring cells that produce said first fluorescent protein to at least one additional immunocompromised animal.

10. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, which further comprises subjecting the recovered one or more desired living cells to gene expression analysis.

11. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said undesired cells contained in the tissue produce a second fluorescent protein that emits a different wavelength from the first fluorescent protein.

12. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is contained in a living animal.